AMPTHILL
URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR
1899.

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AMPTHILL,

March, 1900.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE AMPTHILL URBAN COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting to you my Report upon the Sanitary condition of the Town of Ampthill for the year 1899.

The Population of Ampthill, according to Census of 1891, is 2,294. Area in acres, 1,742.

The number of Births registered during the year was 44, including 23 Males and 21 Females, corresponding to an Annual Birth-rate of 19·1 per 1,000, as compared with 16·1 per 1,000 in 1898.

The number of Deaths registered during the year was 42, including 13 Males and 29 Females, corresponding to an Annual Death-rate of 18·3 per 1,000. Of these Deaths 8 occurred in the Workhouse, including 2 Ampthill parishioners, making the corrected Death-rate 15·6 per 1,000 as compared with 14·8 per 1,000 in 1898.

Of the total number of Deaths 5 occurred under 1 year, corresponding to an Annual Death-rate of 108 to 1,000 Births, as compared with 162 in 1898; 2 between 1 and 5 years; 3 between 15 and 25 years; 11 between 25 and 65 years; and 21 over 65 years. 9 Deaths occurred over 80, viz., at 80, 81, 3 at 85, 2 at 87, 89 and 91.

PREVALENCE OF DISEASE.—The chief causes of Death were as follows:—

Heart Disease	7	Pneumonia	2
Atheroma	1	Convulsions	1
Thrombosis	1	Diarrhœa	2
Old Age	7	Entiritis	1
Phthisis	2	Bright's Disease	1
Congestion of Lungs	2	Inquest Cases	2
Apoplexy	5	Angina Pectoris	1
Bronchitis	1	Epilepsy	1
Premature Birth	1	Caries	1
Inanition	1	Strangulated Hernia	1

Chronic Rheumatic Arthritis..... 1

The causes of Death assigned in 2 Inquest cases were 1 Natural Causes and 1 Blood Poisoning, result of injury at football.

The Infectious Diseases Notification Act still continues in force in the Town. 5 cases were notified during the year. The notifications received were as follows: Erysipelas 3, Typhoid Fever 1, Diphtheria 1.

MEANS OF PREVENTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—Notification, strict home isolation, children from infected families are prohibited from attending school, closing of schools when necessary, the houses and premises in which contagious illness has occurred are thoroughly disinfected. Disinfectants are supplied gratuitously. Inquiries are made as to the cause of the disease, and the Sanitary condition of the premises are investigated, and defects remedied. The Town is without any Hospital accommodation for infectious cases.

WATER SUPPLY.—The condition of the Water Supply remains the same. A wholesome water supply is urgently required for the district. Having a water flushing system of sewage and no water is an anomily, as it is impossible to properly flush drains and sewers by hand-carried water from pumps and draw-wells. This matter has engaged the attention of the Sanitary Authority during the year, unfortunately with little practical result.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.—After much trouble and expense, the Town has been re-sewered, and a new Sewage Farm made. This cannot fail to make a great improvement in the health and prosperity of the Town in the future, as the old sewers were very defective, causing contamination of the soil, wells and atmosphere. The Sewerage Scheme has been carried out by the Administrators of the late JOHN ADAMS JOWETT, of Southport, under Mr. HENNELL, C.E., of Delahoy Street, Westminster. The total length of new sewers now complete is about 9,000 yards, or rather more than 5 miles. In addition 450 yards of new storm water drains have been made, to keep rain water out of the small portion of previously existing sewers still made use of. All the old sewers, except those in Bedford Street and Brewery Lane, constructed in 1895, and a part of the back of Church Street, are used for storm water only. All house drains previously draining to the old sewers have been disconnected, and connected to the new ones instead, at the public expense; 152 house drains have been thus dealt with, providing for quite double that number of houses. For all houses not previously drained, junctions have been placed in the lines of the new sewer at convenient points, so that connections can be made by the owners. Some of these have been already made.

NEW SEWAGE FARM.—The whole area, about 7 acres, has been laid out in plots with ridges and furrows, and is receiving sewage in proper rotation.

TANKS.—The sewage when it enters the farm goes first into tanks, where it is made to pass through vertical gravel filters contained between perforated boards. These filters retain the solid matters, which gradually settle to the bottom

of the upper compartments of the tanks. The thick liquid or sludge thus left behind is pumped at intervals by fixed hand pumps into sludge beds prepared to receive it.

SLUDGE BEDS.—These are three in number, and of large size, with cinders in the bottom, and a system of under drains leading to the lower part of the farm. The liquid contained in the sludge after it has been pumped, will further drain off by means of these drains, leaving the remainder in such condition that it will speedily dry and become removable in carts.

All sewage has now been directed from the old sewage farm, which is let to a tenant for ordinary cultivation.

REMOVAL OF REFUSE.—A system of public scavenging is well carried out, refuse being removed twice a week from each house.

POLLUTION OF STREAMS AND WATERCOURSES.—No complaints have been made during the year.

PREMISES REGULATED BY SANITARY AUTHORITIES.—The slaughter-houses, cow-sheds, dairies, and bakehouses have been periodically inspected, and their sanitary condition maintained. There are no large factories in the town. The sanitary condition of the Bedford Street and Woburn Street Schools is satisfactory.

HOUSE SANITATION.—The general condition of the houses of the working classes is good. A great improvement has been made in Long Row,—3 dilapidated houses have been taken down. There is no overcrowding, either of houses upon ground or of inhabitants in the dwellings. Seven new houses were completed during the year.

ADOPTION OF PERMISSIVE ACTS AND BYE-LAWS.—The Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act and certain Bye-laws are in force.

GENERAL SANITATION AND ADMINISTRATION.—The District has been regularly and systematically inspected. Any influences likely to affect the public health have been corrected as far as practicable.

The Sanitary Inspector's Report is appended.

In conclusion, I have to thank Mr. HENNELL, C.E., for particulars of the New Sewage Scheme.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM J. TAYLOR,

Medical Officer of Health.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

Insufficient Closet Accommodation	1
Pigsty Nuisance	1
Offensive Manure Pits	2
Defective Closets	2
Defective Drains	5
Removing Refuse from Slaughter-houses	1
Dilapidated Cottage	1
Other Nuisances	8

Plans passed for 7 New Houses
One additions to newly built House
One New Warehouse
One New Fruit Room